



DRAFT MINUTES
of the
Meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
A Public Agency
Tuesday, September 13, 2005
8:30 AM

Santa Barbara MTD Auditorium
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

John Britton, Chair, David Davis, Vice Chair, Brian Fahnestock, Secretary, Dick Weinberg, Director

DIRECTOR NOT PRESENT:

Logan Green, Director

MTD EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller, Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and the General Manager, Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance, David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Secord, Santa Barbara City Council Member

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Britton called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Britton noted that all members were present, with the exception of Director Green.

3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA

The General Manager reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters, on the MTD website and mailed to the media of general circulation on September 9, 2005.

4. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Britton noted that the minutes for the meeting of August 30, 2005, would be presented at the next Board meeting.

5. CASH REPORTS

Director Fahnestock moved to approve the cash report for August 23, 2005, through September 5, 2005. Vice Chair Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Britton requested that staff send the Finance Committee copies of the most recent credit card statements.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. FIESTA 2005

David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations reported on the Fiesta 2005 Service. Mr. Damiano started his report with a brief overview of Fiesta 2004, which had provided a special Fiesta service called the Fiesta KRUZER. This service had been a collaborative effort amongst MTD, Old Spanish Days and Cumulus Media. The Service ran two 29' Gilligs, operating during specific hours and traveling to a majority of the Fiesta locations. Mr. Damiano reported the Fiesta KRUZER service cost MTD an additional \$6,400.00 and had resulted in low ridership totals with only 526 passenger trips.

Mr. Damiano announced that for Fiesta 2005, MTD had again partnered with Cumulus and Old Spanish Days in all marketing efforts, but had taken a different service approach. This year only a limited amount of additional, specialized service was implemented. These services were for Fiesta Pequeña held at the Santa Barbara Mission and for the Los Dignitarios event held at the Santa Barbara Zoo. These two services were the only additional costs MTD incurred this year, which totaled \$960.00. Mr. Damiano stated that his department had communicated with Old Spanish Days early on and was able to determine that a majority the Fiesta events would be held along the existing routes of the lines 6, 11, 24 and the Downtown Waterfront Shuttle, therefore incurring no additional costs to MTD. This bus information was then included in the Old Spanish Days Fiesta guide. Mr. Damiano announced that this approach appears to have been a successful one with ridership for Fiesta 2005 totaling 2,460 passenger trips.

8. PROCUREMENT OF 29' BUSES FOR MESA LOOP

The General Manager reported that MTD is ready to purchase buses that would be used for the implementation of the Mesa Loop service, which she added MTD hopes to start in a year from now. The General Manager reminded the Board that this Service was part of MTD's proposed South Coast Transit Priorities (SCTP) and funding will be covered by Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant amendment funds and also by a local match paid for by the City of Santa Barbara. Mr. Estrada reviewed the procurement for three 29' Gillig clean diesel buses with the Board, which included staff's recommendation to purchase these buses as part of a "piggyback" opportunity available from Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (Hartline). Mr. Estrada noted that other buses considered were Orion and New Flyer, but neither of these companies had the "piggyback" opportunity available. Mr. Estrada stated that he is currently reviewing the Hartline agreement to ensure that they have complied with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) "piggyback" requirements.

Vice Chair Davis asked if staff has been satisfied with the quality of the Gillig buses purchased in 2004 and if they feel confident about purchasing more. Mr. Estrada replied that MTD's maintenance department feels very positive about this choice and noted that with MTD's requested changes, these buses will be identical to the eleven purchased in 2004.

Vice Chair Davis moved to authorize the General Manager to enter into an Agreement with Gillig Corp. for the purchase of three (3) 29' buses; pending completion of piggyback

procurement documentation review and negotiation. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION

The General Manager reported that she had recently met with members of the Human Resources/Personnel Committee to discuss health and dental insurance coverage & options for staff retirees. The General Manager had requested the Committee meeting after she had received a request from an early staff retiree, Mr. Gleason, to opt out of the current group plan and receive reimbursement up to the same dollar amount as if he had remained in the group. The General Manager stated that the Committee had recommended that she bring this topic before the full Board. At this time the General Manager provided the Board with an overview of the current coverage plan for retirees and she noted that MTD currently reimburses staff or union retirees for insurance if they have moved out of the plan's coverage area. The General Manager noted that she has discussed this request with MTD's insurance agent, Bob Fatch of Brown and Brown and he has recommended that the Board authorize this request. Mr. Fatch stated that by removing staff retirees from the "active" group plan, MTD would have additional health insurance quotes at renewal. The General Manager had also asked Mr. Fatch if retirees who opt out of the plan could return, to which she received a written response stating that retirees could return at the annual open enrollment period. The General Manager noted that Doug Large, Legal Counsel for MTD, would complete any amendments to Mr. Gleason's retirement agreement.

Director Fahnestock moved to approve the General Manager's request to allow staff retirees to opt out of the current insurance group plan and be reimbursed for up to the same dollar amount as if they had remained in the group plan. Vice Chair Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Damiano provided the Board with a review of the service changes effective August 29th and noted that Trapeze, the new planning software which was used to make these schedule change is now fully integrated with the operations and payroll departments. The General Manager added that the integration process has been a huge effort by these departments. Mr. Damiano reported that the planning & development department has begun surveying and reviewing each newly launched service. Mr. Damiano then announced that Tully Clifford, Supervising Transportation Engineer for the City of Santa Barbara and he have discussed using the City's new updated monitoring system on State Street to monitor the on time performance of MTD's buses that service that route. The City uses cameras at the intersections along upper State Street to monitor traffic information. MTD will now have the opportunity to request that these cameras capture designated bus information, at specific times, to monitor the arrival and departure times of these buses.

Mr. Damiano provided the Board an overview of the newly implemented Old Town Shuttle service. Mr. Damiano reported that weekday and weekend ridership is growing and noted that the previous line 9 service had not offered a weekend service. Vice Chair Davis requested that the next time Board receives an update on this service, if it could also include review of goals set for this service.

Mr. Damiano reported that MTD is currently coordinating with the City of Goleta to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Calle Real Old Town Shuttle and he noted that a date for the ceremony would be announced soon.

The General Manager reported that she had recently met with Ann Fryslye, Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) Director of Student Life and Benjamin Partee, SBCC Associate Dean of Educational Programs to discuss transportation needs and the much needed parking alternatives for the School. During this meeting, the General Manager updated Ms. Fryslye and Mr. Partee with the current overload issues that MTD is facing, while providing transportation to and from the School. The General Manager stated that due to MTD's limited amount of buses and funds, MTD is currently providing the maximum amount of service possible. Mr. Damiano then provided the Board with information regarding some demographic information that his staff had reviewed in order to accommodate these passengers, but noted that due to the School's change in schedule, without notifying MTD, the schedules are not coordinating as well as planned. Mr. Damiano reported that Sarah Glover, MTD's Marketing Coordinator has been and continues to visit the School to provide students with bus information and encourage ridership. The General Manager noted that these routes also provide service to the residents within these routes and they too are affected by the overcrowding of these buses.

Director Weinberg asked if there had been any results from Director Fahnestock's visit to the SBCC Board of Directors meeting. The General Manager replied that it appears that there has, because SBCC Administration is now also encouraging students to ride MTD's buses.

Director Fahnestock provided the Board with information regarding the Enhanced Transit Subcommittee of which he and Vice Chair Davis are both MTD Liaisons. Director Fahnestock noted that this Subcommittee also includes City Committee members and two Council members. Director Fahnestock reported that the City Council created this Subcommittee to improve transit and to discuss MTD's transit enhancement goals. However, Director Fahnestock added that there are difficulties due to the fact that a majority of members are fearful of additional money spent on transit might reduce funds that their individual agencies may potentially receive. Vice Chair Davis then read aloud MTD's proposed Enhanced Transit Committee Goals:

1. Through increased service, create a transit enhancement proposal that delivers more expected riders beyond that required for the Granada Garage mitigation.
2. Obtain assistance for MTD in purchasing the new buses to support proposed increases in service.
3. Recommend to Council that the City and the community supporters approach the other local agencies for "matching funds" for increased service on routes partially outside the City.

Director Fahnestock then gave a brief overview of a service enhancements spreadsheet he developed, which includes information regarding the Granada Garage mitigation. Director Fahnestock noted that the currently allocated funds for the mitigation are about half of what is needed. The General Manager added that this original mitigation is flawed because it would not result in enough service to provide the seats needed for these potential passengers. Vice Chair Davis then asked that the General Manager to call and remind members of the Santa Barbara Association of Governments (SBCAG) to continue attending these Enhanced Transit Subcommittee meetings. In closing the Board and MTD staff discussed the lack of media coverage that the Joint Meeting of July 20th and the Enhanced Transit Subcommittee have received.

The General Manager announced to the Board that soil removal at Calle Real is complete. Mr. Estrada provided the Board with an overview of additional requirements needed for the completion of the remediation project, such as sampling of the site where the soil was located,

submission of the test results report to the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) at which time MTD will request an expedited response from the APCD. Mr. Estrada stated that MTD is hopeful to receive a notice of “no further action needed” from the APCD within the next 30 to 60 days.

Vice Chair Davis requested that potential buyers of the property be informed that the soil remediation is in the final completion stages. Vice Chair Davis then requested an ad hoc Calle Real meeting to discuss a program of events for the sale of the property, to be held during the month of October.

The General Manager reported that Gregg Hart of 101 in Motion would like to make a present 101 in Motion proposed plan updates at the next Board meeting. The Board agreed to the presentation.

The General Manager updated the Board on the meetings of the Measure D Expenditure Plan Committee. The General Manager reported that MTD has submitted their required “homework”, which includes: maintaining current service levels, as traffic continues to worsen, increasing service to amount that would be viable to solve some of traffic problems within the community, including adding Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) systems to assist riders, the community and the Transit Village.

The General Manager announced that the SBCAG had recently sent MTD and invitation to submit information regarding managing the Clean Air Express. This invitation has also been sent to other Regional transit agencies. Currently MTD is responsible for watching over the service as required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) due to the relationship as grantee for Clean Air’s recent bus purchase. There was a discussion regarding the current service and it was decided that a comprehensive review of the service would be needed before MTD would consider submittal of a response.

The General Manager advised the Board that the Quarterly Televised Evening Board Meeting would be held on September 27, 2005, 5:30 PM in the MTD Auditorium located at 550 Olive Street.

The General Manager closed by announcing that American Public Transportation Foundation had set up a Scholarship in honor of Frank Lichtanski, former General Manager of Monterey Salinas Transit. The scholarship is to support transit leaders to attend a session of the Eno Foundation’s Center for Transit Leadership (CTL), of which Mr. Lichtanski had been involved in from its inception.

11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice Chair Davis reported that the Santa Barbara Economic Community Project (ECP) would hold their annual forum on October 21, 2005, 8:30 AM, in the Faulkner Gallery located in the Santa Barbara Library. Vice Chair Davis stated that he would like members of MTD’s Board to attend if possible.

Chair Britton reported that the Human Resources/Personnel Committee had met to discuss retiree health insurance and recruitment.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM.